



# *Impact Report 2023-2024*



*Dear Friends,*

At Wisconsin Literacy, we know that literacy is much more than reading. It is the foundation for opportunity.

Whole person literacy connects people to jobs, strengthens families, and helps individuals navigate their world with confidence. In 2024, your support made these transformations possible. Refugees regained their voice in new communities, parents earned their GED to inspire future generations, and adult learners gained digital skills to thrive in an increasingly online world. Many also learned to better understand health information, giving them the tools to make informed decisions for themselves and their families. These stories remind us that literacy truly changes lives.

Your generosity strengthens the work of more than 80 member agencies across Wisconsin, providing resources and training to meet learners where they are. Together, we are addressing literacy needs today while building a foundation for a brighter and stronger tomorrow.

Thank you for your continued belief in the power of literacy.



*Stephen Mundt, Board Chair*



*Jake Gorges, Executive Director*

*Cover Photo provided by Joyce's House Education Center*



wisconsin  
literacy

Photo provided by Empire Photography

## *Meeting the Unique Needs of Refugee Students*

Adult students who qualify for refugee status often arrive in the United States having endured trauma and adjusting to a new culture and unfamiliar environment. It's particularly important that we support inclusive, safe, and welcoming literacy programs for this group of students. A two-year grant from the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and the Bureau of Refugee Programs (BRP) has allowed us to:

- Hire a highly experienced Program Manager to oversee the grant.
- Support English Language Learning programs at 18 Wisconsin Literacy member agencies.
- Provide resources, capacity-building support and trainings that resulted in our members serving 1,075 ORR-eligible students and their families.
- Help agencies provide transportation, offsite classes and childcare to remove barriers to education.
- Host the inaugural Refugee and Immigrant Support Summit, in partnership with the Wisconsin Technical College System. The Summit brought together immigrants and refugees, service providers, educators, as well as community and business leaders for action-oriented networking and resource sharing.

1,999 refugees were resettled in Wisconsin in fiscal year 2024. Wisconsin Literacy member programs reached over 1,000 refugee students. Through the support of ORR and BRP, we have helped to meet the educational and professional goals of refugee students statewide. Our member agencies have helped refugee students learn English and connected them to important resources in their community. The staff and volunteers also provide classes for refugees who are eligible to become U.S. citizens, equipping them with the knowledge and language skills needed to pass the citizenship test. [By attending classes and working with a tutor at a Wisconsin Literacy member agency, a refugee student from Syria met his goal of moving up one English as a Second Language (ESL) level. With this knowledge, he opened his own tailoring business in Madison earlier this year.]

*Photo provided by Literacy Services of Wisconsin*



## *Driving Health Literacy Forward*

This past year, Wisconsin Literacy, Inc. (WL) conducted organizational health literacy assessments in hospitals and clinics to identify strengths and areas for improvement. These assessments laid the groundwork for enhancing patient experiences. WL's work has drawn interest from additional healthcare providers looking to collaborate in the future.

WL co-hosted a successful Collaborative Health Literacy Summit in May, attended by over 200 participants from nine states. The conference featured a diverse group of speakers and sessions that inspired collaboration and knowledge-sharing within the health literacy field.

WL created educational videos to help individuals and families access reliable medical information online. In partnership with trusted community-based organizations, WL provided COVID-19 vaccine information to traditionally under-served populations. These workshops and community events culminated in nearly 10,000 activities and 4.7 million outreach contacts statewide.

Easy-to-understand health information is vital for patients, families, and caregivers. These projects reinforce WL's commitment to making health information clear and accessible, strengthening its role as a leader in advancing health literacy.



## *Advancing Literacy Statewide*

This year, Wisconsin Literacy (WL) leadership dedicated countless hours to advocating for expanded literacy funding. We are passionate about literacy's transformative impact—not only in strengthening Wisconsin's workforce and economy but also in enhancing the well-being of individuals, families, and communities.

As chair of the Workforce Committee of the Governor's Council of Workforce Investment, WL's Executive Director, Jake Gorges, focuses on aligning workforce development with the literacy needs of adult learners, fostering outcomes that benefit both students and employers.

Throughout the year, WL highlighted the vital role of local literacy programs in preparing adults for meaningful career paths. Our member agencies play an essential role in helping students develop critical skills—from GED preparation to English language proficiency and digital literacy. These skills open doors to new opportunities that support personal growth and contribute to Wisconsin's economic health.

In the coming year, we will continue strengthening partnerships and raising awareness of the powerful link between literacy, growth, and opportunity. Together, we're working to build a more literate Wisconsin, where individuals, families, businesses, and communities thrive. Our vision is a state that values learning, inclusion, and the opportunities literacy creates for all.





## *Thank You to Donors, Grant Funders and Sponsors (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023)*

### *\$100,000 and above*

Otto Bremer Trust  
Wisconsin Bureau of Refugee Programs  
Wisconsin Department of Administration  
Wisconsin Department of Children and Families  
Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development

### *\$25,000-\$99,999*

Ascendium Group  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

### *\$10,000-\$24,999*

Community Shares of Wisconsin  
Dean Health Plan by Medica  
Exact Sciences

### *\$2,500-\$9,999*

Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin  
All of Us Research Program  
American Family Insurance  
CareSource  
Coalition on Adult Basic Education  
Michele and John Erikson  
Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin  
Gundersen Health System  
Institute for Healthcare Advancement  
Julie and David Kalsbeek  
Eric Klusman  
Brian Long and Jessica Krasin  
MetaStar, Inc.  
Steve and Sheri Mundt  
Network of the National Library of Medicine Region 6  
Only in Wisconsin Giving, Inc.  
Paul Smith  
SSM Health-Wisconsin  
TASC Cares  
UnityPoint Health - Meriter

UW Health  
Wisconsin Hospital Association  
Foundation  
Wisconsin Medical Society Foundation

### *\$1,000-\$2,499*

Ann Beeson  
Jean Demopoulos and Douglas Johnson  
Jim and Jessica Doyle  
Mary Erikson  
Julie Furst Bowe  
Green Bay Packers Give Back  
Health Literacy Media  
Jamie and Jason Kobs  
Debbie and Mike Kutchin  
Christina Outlay  
Zorba and Penelope Paster  
ProLiteracy America  
Jeffrey Scherer and Debra Alder  
Christina Sheehan  
Frances Taran Freund  
The Alliance  
Wisconsin Association of Health Plans

Peter and Vicki Wright

**\$500-\$999**

Jack Connelly and Terri Cronk Connelly

Heidi Frankson and Michael Hackett

Godfrey and Kahn S.C.

Sandy Hasz

Health Literacy Connections

John and Rita Hoffman

Mary Krall

Ronald Luskin

Shannon Mason Young and Tim Young

Aaron McCann

John and Donna Montgomery

Melinda Orebaugh

Park Place Wealth Management

Greg Pitts

Melissa Quinn

Alexzandra Shade

Greg and Kay Simmons

TruStage

Scott Turner and Erin Medina

Dawn Weckerle

**\$250-\$499**

Arlene Banoul

Anna Bierer and Eric Tranmal

Liz Fitzpatrick

Bill and Catherine Flanagan

Anna Krause

Glorianne Mather

Holly McCoy

Network for Good

Northwest Federal Credit Union

Promega Corporation

Tori Rader

Cynthia Robey-Duncomb

Barb Robson

Julie Rogers

Olayinka Shiyabola

Steven Long

Michael Villaire

**\$100-\$249**

Erin Agesen

Julie Adams Smith

Rebecca Arenivar

Robert Auerbach

Rubin Augustin

Adam Balin and Karin Mahony

Timothy Bartholow

George Belvitch

Karen Boettner

Theresa Brandon

Kecia Brauneller

Ann Brewer and Bob Mumford

Joyce Caldwell

Rowan Childs

Chippewa Falls Public Library

Lisa Christofferson

Randy and Ellie Coloni

Marsha Connet

Heidi Cox

Rebecca and Scott Currey

Colm Dillane

Bobbi Jo Eisenreich

Heidi and Steve Eldred

Dolores Elliott

Gary and Kim Enders

Forward Service Corporation

Paul Gabriel and Silke Sonntag

Andrew and Jennifer Giesler

Jacob Gorges

Debra Helquist

Angie Hendrickson

Kay Henrichs

Ashleigh Henrichs

Clare Hoffman

Vicki Huffman and Alan Knight

Melissa Hughes  
Kelly Jarosinski  
Jeremy Gorges  
Roberta Johnson  
Sherry Jordan  
Victoria Keale  
Jonathan Kemman  
Bhumi Khambholja  
Steven and Marie Kosier  
Josh Kraus  
Erin Kutz  
Keith Lange  
Katerina Lessard  
Barb Lundberg  
Kay MacKenzie  
George and Karen Mackinnon  
Julie Martin  
Virginia Martin and Kevin Brown  
Cynthia Martinelli  
Cassie McLain  
Bridget Miles and May Kasahara  
Paul Neary  
Susan Nemetz  
Ronald Nief and Joanna Kutter  
Scot Nortrom

Andrea and Walter O'Neill  
Lori Oswald  
Rachel Panasuk  
Willa and Tim Panzer  
Timothy Paskewitz  
Allan Patek  
Carolyn Peckham  
Brian Pittelli  
Jonathan Poletti  
Rose Marie Pollatz  
Right Click Consulting  
Marilyn Rinehart  
Heather Rowland  
Brian Rust  
Robin Rynd  
Robin Sattel  
Daniel Shirley  
Kathleen Southard  
Daryl Strauss  
Mary Thilly  
Kristen and Bill Tranmal  
Lydia Tucker-Stickels  
Kathy and Derek van Veldhuisen  
Elizabeth Vermedahl  
Mary Claire Voss

Cole Weiser  
Kathleen and Scott Weiser  
Jeanette Wheat  
Emma Wimberley  
Matthew Wood  
Darren Wutzke

*Up to \$99*

Andrea Anderson  
Angela Hanley  
Ryan and Jessica Baguhn  
Barbara Baldwin  
Linda Balisle  
Greg and Anna Bernhardt  
Mary Bhardwaj  
Keith Bohnsack  
Christopher Bowles  
Corey Bowles  
Mary Bowles  
Chris Brown  
Debra Brunette  
Mary Burke  
Joe Bursinger  
Elizabeth Butler  
Chris Janus

Noel Connelly  
Samantha and Bruce Crownover  
Lynn Currie  
Joli Dace  
Dana McMullin  
Ashley Deprey-Peeters  
Martin Drapkin and Erica Napoli  
Cheri Dubiel  
Jennifer Eng  
Ann Engler  
Joe Ferguson  
Cara and Dave Fields  
Jack Fischer  
Kristin Flury  
Beth Gaytan  
Charles Gorges  
Kassidy Gorman  
Kathy Gwidt  
Robyn Hallet  
Creed and Marta Hansen  
Denise Hart  
Marilyn Hegge  
Nacy Henderson  
Andrew Henrichs  
Cheryl Hernandez  
Steve Hirshfeld  
Carol Iwanowski

Ann Jackson  
Casey Jordan  
Erin Ketterer  
Georgia Kiley  
Nancy Kimmell  
Douglas Klapper  
Amanda Kosier  
Lori Krumberger  
Rachel Kruse  
Sarah Kruse  
Linda Kuhn  
Michael Lauterbach  
Kelly Leversee  
Deborah Lindberg  
Wendy Lindenberg  
Plumer and Paphada Lovelace  
David Luck  
Salli Martyniak  
Nick Meier  
Kathleen Messinger  
Ryan Miller  
Kaitlin Moore  
Olivia O'Keary  
Josh Oldenburg  
Therese Oldenburg  
Jennifer Ondrejka  
Merry Pantaleo

Andrea Pease  
Jennifer Peterson  
Melissa Peyton  
Katherine Pinkowsky  
Diane Pletcher  
Mary Plunkett  
Abby Reed  
Susan Rice  
Noemy Rodriguez  
Logan Rude  
Kelly Rush  
Dorothy Russ  
Jennifer Sanner  
Ashley Schuman  
Eva Shiffrin  
Jennifer Sigmond  
Lisa Simpson  
Elizabeth Singer  
Cynthia and Michael Slavish  
Steven Sparks  
Carrie Steckl  
Tahj Stewart  
Madeline Sweeney  
Glenna Temte  
John Thao  
Brittney Thomas  
Emily Thome

Julia Thompson  
Adam Toerner  
Dan Torres  
Paula Tran  
Leslie Tremblay  
Leah Ujda  
Deb Umstead  
Barbara Vogel  
Kim Walz  
Michael Webb  
Olivia Wendt  
Angela West Blank  
Eleanor Williams and Kevin Schram  
Patricia Wilson  
Summer Wilson  
Woody and Pat Wimberley  
Scott Wood  
Rachel Zammpa  
Kathleen Zupan

### *Gifts In-Kind*

Empire Photography

### *In Honor Of*

Emily Auerbach  
Kathy Bartlett  
Mimi Czarnik  
John and Michele Erikson's Retirement  
Michele Erikson  
Mary Erikson  
Beth Gaytan  
Jake Gorges  
Colleen Horn Harris  
John Henry  
Anna Krause  
Stephen Mundt  
Robert Quinlan  
Dan Torres  
Wisconsin Department of Public  
Health Senior Leadership Team  
Wisconsin Literacy Superheroes

### *In Memory Of*

Trish Cremeens  
Karl Harter  
Marlowe Nortrom  
Ruth Peckham

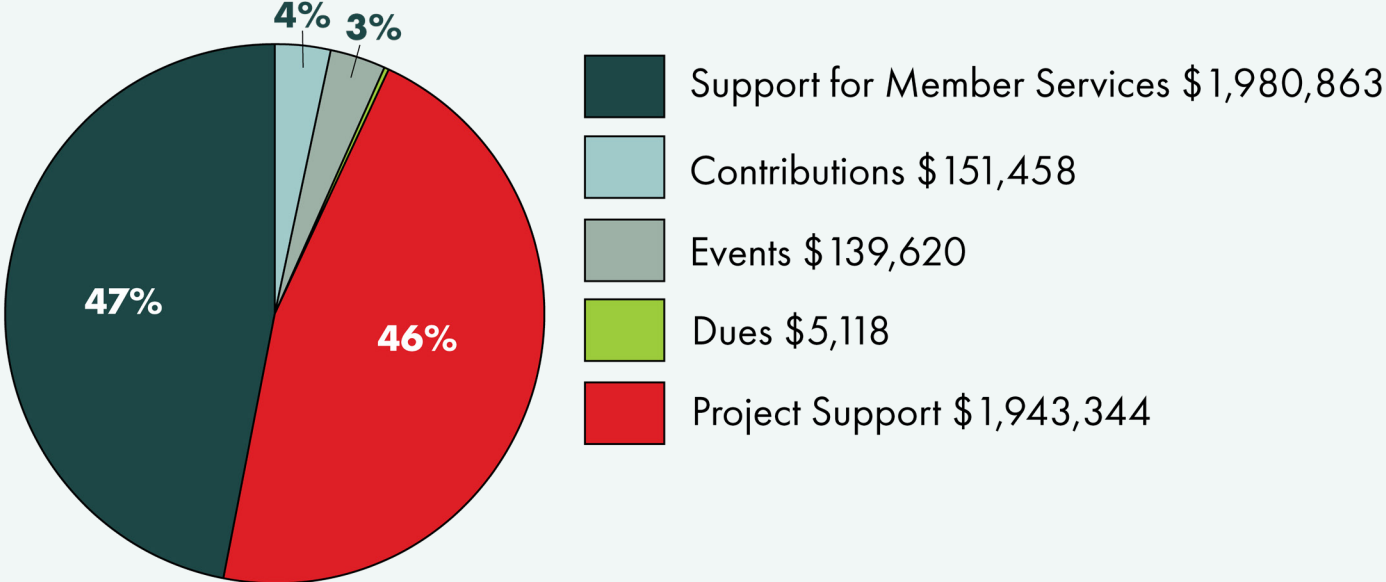
Stephen Greg Rice  
Lucile Smith  
Michelle Sparks  
June Stellberg  
Patricia Stephan  
James R. Stickels

Many anonymous donors.

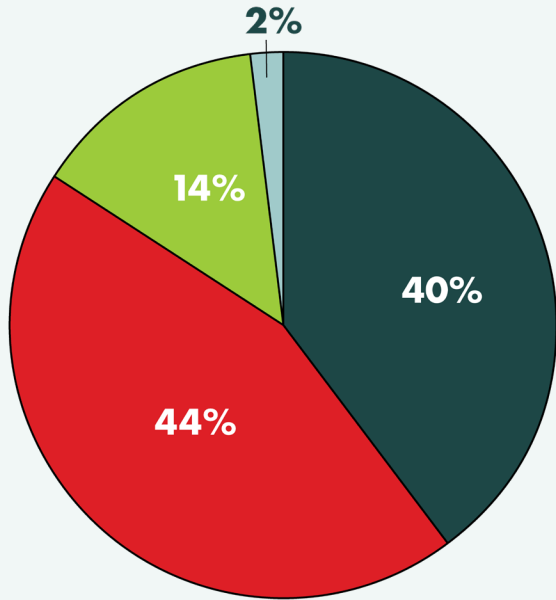
*\*We sincerely apologize if any partner, donor or sponsor was inadvertently omitted from our printed list. Please let us know so we can promptly address the oversight. Thank you.*

*Financial Highlights*

*Revenue \$4,220,403*



# Expenses \$4,272,291



- Member Services \$1,708,791
- Program Services (HL) \$1,891,561
- Management and General \$600,698
- Fundraising \$71,240



## 2023-24 Members

Adult Learning Center  
Adult Learning Program and Services of  
Black River Falls Library  
Adult Literacy Center of Ozaukee  
County, Inc.  
African American Mutual Assistance  
Network, Inc.  
Alternative Center for Education  
Ashland Literacy  
Baraboo Area Literacy Council  
Barron County Literacy Council, Inc.  
Barron/Washburn County Adult  
Literacy  
Buffalo Pepin County Literacy Alliance  
Burmese Rohingya Community of  
Wisconsin, Inc.  
CAP Services, Inc.  
Casa Guadalupe Education Center, Inc.  
Children's Dyslexia Center  
Columbus Literacy Council  
Community Center for Immigrants Inc.  
COMSA  
Coulee Region Literacy Council  
Faith Community Church  
Faith Lutheran Church Literacy Program  
Fond du Lac Literacy Services  
Fox Valley Literacy  
Grant County Family Literacy Services,  
Inc.  
Hanan Refugees Relief Group  
Hedberg Public Library  
International Institute of Wisconsin  
Jefferson County Literacy Council  
Journey House Adult Learning Center  
Joyce's House Education Center  
Kenosha Literacy Council  
Kids' Ranch  
Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa College  
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa Indians  
Latino Academy of Workforce  
Development  
Literacy Chippewa Valley  
Literacy Council of Green County, Ltd.  
Literacy Council of Sheboygan County  
Literacy Door County  
Literacy Green Bay, Inc.  
Literacy Network  
Literacy Partners of Kewaunee County  
Literacy Services of Wisconsin  
Literacy Task Force of Wisconsin (WI  
Reads)  
Literacy Volunteers - Marquette County,  
Inc.  
Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin  
and Upper Michigan  
Madison International Partners  
Madison Reading Project  
Marinette and Oconto Counties Literacy  
Council

McLit Marathon County Literacy  
Council, Inc.  
Menominee Tribal Education  
Department  
Milwaukee Public Library Drop-In Adult  
Tutoring Program  
Neighborhood House of Milwaukee  
International Learning Program  
New Beginnings for Refugees  
Next Door  
Northwest Wisconsin Concentrated  
Employment Program (CEP)  
Northwoods Regional Adult Literacy  
Council  
Omega School Inc.  
Oneida Education and Training  
Oneida Nation Community Education  
Center  
One-to-One Adult Literacy Partners  
Page Forward Volunteers for Literacy in  
Clark County  
Portage County Literacy Council

Portage Public Library  
Racine Literacy Council, Inc.  
Reading Connections Inc.  
Rhineland District Library  
Sauk Prairie Area Literacy Council  
Sawyer County Literacy  
SEA Literacy  
Shawano County Literacy Council  
Social Development Commission  
Sojourner's Journey  
SS Michael and Rose Literacy Program  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church Literacy  
Program  
Stateline Literacy Council  
Stockbridge-Munsee Community  
Band of Mohican Indians Education  
Department  
Taylor County Literacy Council  
UMOS, Inc.  
UW Madison Cultural Linguistic  
Services  
Walworth County Literacy Council

West CAP Literacy and Skills  
Enhancement Program  
Winnebago Area Literacy Council  
Wisconsin Institutions Literacy Council  
Wisconsin Workforce Transformation,  
Inc.  
YWCA Greater Green Bay  
YWCA Rock County  
YWCA Southeast Wisconsin

*2023-24  
Board of Directors*

**Chair:** Stephen Mundt

**Vice Chair:** Aaron  
McCann

**Secretary:** Melinda  
Orebaugh

**Treasurer:** Dawn  
Weckerle  
Greg Coleman

Eric Johnson

Anna Krause

Christina Outlay

Melissa Quinn

Justin Rivas

Jackie Gerhart

Meghan Gaffney

*Wisconsin Literacy  
Staff*

Jake Gorges, Executive  
Director

Ashleigh Henrichs,  
Associate Director

Brian Abel, DHS, MPH,  
Health Literacy Director

Heidi Frankson,  
Development Director

Greg Pitts,  
Controller

Dan Torres, Data &  
Communications  
Manager

Rose Lamensdorf,  
Refugee Services  
Program Manager

Kelly Rush, Grants &  
Financial Specialist

Hannah Hirsch,  
Monitoring & Evaluation  
Specialist

Jamie Kobs, Tutor  
Training & Digital  
Literacy Project Manager

Anna Bierer, Instructional  
Coach

Robyn Hallet, Northeast  
Regional Literacy  
Consultant

Marsha Connet,  
Southeast Regional  
Literacy Consultant

Patricia Wilson,  
Southeast Regional  
Literacy Consultant  
Assistant

Kimberly Wild,  
Southwest/South  
Central Regional Literacy  
Consultant

Shannon Mason Young,  
Northwest Regional  
Literacy Consultant



### *Our Mission*

Changing lives by strengthening literacy statewide.

### *Our Vision*

All people in Wisconsin have the literacy skills to reach their full potential.

---

### *Contact Us*

608-257-1655

[info@wisconsinliteracy.org](mailto:info@wisconsinliteracy.org)

211 S. Paterson St.

Suite 170

Madison, WI 53703